

Reporting Nicotine Dependence in ICD-10-CM

Coding Job Aid

Chapter Five (5) of the *ICD-10-CM Manual* includes codes for Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. There is a subchapter for Mental and Behavioral Disorders due to Psychoactive Substance Use that includes ICD-10-CM categories F10 – F19. This is the section where the nicotine dependence codes are located and the following job aid is designed to help when documenting the patient record and reporting codes from this section.

Codes	Categories
F17.200 – F17.209	Nicotine dependence, unspecified
F17.210 – F17.219	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes
F17.220 – F17.229	Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco
F17.290 – F17.299	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product

Remember that the term “smoker” is indexed to “Dependence, drug, nicotine” represented by the appropriate code from the F17.21- subcategory.

Within each subcategory, there are 5 possible classifications:

Subcategories & Definitions
<p>Uncomplicated</p> <p>The provider should specifically document “uncomplicated” when the criteria for remission, withdrawal or nicotine-induced disorders is not relevant.</p>
<p>In remission</p> <p>The provider must specifically state “in remission” in the individual patient’s medical record documentation. In addition, the provider can specify early remission (at least 1 month, but less than 12 months) or sustained remission (a period of 12 months or longer), when applicable.ⁱ</p>
<p>With withdrawal</p> <p>Withdrawal is defined as physiological or psychological disturbance when the nicotine is removed. This may include, but not be limited to, irritability, anxiety, restlessness, difficulty concentrating, depression, frustration, anger, increased hunger, insomnia, bowel changes, headache or strong cravings (these withdrawal symptoms are separately coded).</p>
<p>With other nicotine-induced disorders</p> <p>Nicotine-induced disorders include, but are not limited to, respiratory diseases such as asthma or emphysema, chronic bronchitis, diabetes, cataracts, impotence, heart disease, loss of taste or smell, gum disease and cancers (these conditions are separately coded). The provider must document the relationship between the nicotine dependence and the medical condition.</p>
<p>With unspecified nicotine-induced disorders</p>

There is a unique ICD-10-CM code to report a history of nicotine dependence:

Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence
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It is the provider's responsibility to document whether the patient has nicotine dependence in remission or a personal history of nicotine dependence. From a coding standpoint, the patient would be considered to remain dependent on nicotine (in remission) if the patient continues to crave nicotine for support, to maintain function or survive.ⁱⁱ

Children living in homes with secondhand smoke are more likely to have SIDS, asthma, respiratory or ear infections and other illnesses.ⁱⁱⁱ Secondhand smoke also increases the risk of lung cancer and heart disease among adults close to smokers. ICD-10-CM includes the following codes for exposure to tobacco smoke:

Code	Definition
P96.81	Exposure to (parental) (environmental) tobacco smoke in the perinatal period
Z57.31	Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
Z77.22	Contact with and (suspected) exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (acute) (chronic)

There is also a specific diagnosis code for tobacco abuse counseling:

Z71.6	Tobacco abuse counseling
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This diagnosis code is the first-listed code when the reason for the encounter is tobacco abuse counseling, followed by the ICD-10-CM code that describes the patient's nicotine dependence. If the tobacco abuse counseling is not the primary reason for the patient visit, but also performed during the same encounter, this code is reported as a secondary or subsequent code. In both scenarios, the specific nicotine dependence code is reported as well.

While the use of a non-nicotine electronic cigarette is not separately reported, codes for electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine are reported with a code from category:

F17.29-	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product (uncomplicated, in remission, etc.)
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In addition to these specific nicotine dependence codes, there is a very general (and therefore rarely reported) code reported when the medical record states the patient uses tobacco, but there is no documentation that the patient is either a smoker or nicotine dependent:

Z72.0	Tobacco Use
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The World Health Organization (WHO) also provides additional information on ICD-10-CM diagnostic guidelines for use, abuse and dependence on their website.^{iv}

ⁱ Appendix C DSM-IV-TR

ⁱⁱ http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/terminology/who_lexicon/en/

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.healthline.com/health/nicotine-and-related-disorders#Overview1>

^{iv} http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/terminology/definition1/en/